THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) Yes, Sir. State Government of Punjab have reported that 50,000 hectares of land in the State has been rendered uncultivable due to deposition of sand/silton account of recent floods.

(b) Expenditure ceiling of Rs. 8.00 crores has been approved for removal of sandcast/eroded lands for the State of Punjab by the Central Government for providing subsidy to eligible categories of farmers whose lands have been affected by sandcasting. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has also issued instructions for providing institutional financing for restoration of sandcast lands in Punjab. State Government of Punjab have also geared up the administrative machinery to expedite restoration of the sandcast lands.

Board of Directors of the Modern Food Industries

*307. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Modern Food Industries is functioning without Board of Directors; and

(b) if so, since when and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING IN DUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Modern Food Industries (India) Ltd. is functioning with a Board of Directors as prescribed in the Articles of Association of the Company.

Damage to houses due to floods

*309. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent floods in several States have caused house collapses and damage to houses on a considerable scale and have upset Government's housing schemes;

(b) if so, the estimated losses as a result thereof; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to provide relief to those who have lost their shelters in the floods and also to push through other housing schemes?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) and (b) A total number of 25.45 lakh houses have been damaged on account of the heavy rains/floods in the country during the south-west monsoon 1988 as reported by the affected States.

(c) Ceilings of expenditure of Rs. 33.27 crores have been approved in respect of States *viz.*, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Sikkim, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Karnataka and Tripura, so far for providing relief to persons whose houses have been damaged for repair/reconstruction. The memoranda submitted by the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan are being processed as per established procedure.

Loan assistance to the flood affected families for repair/reconstruction of their damaged houses is also being extended by the Housing and Urban Development Corporation, the Nationalised Banks and other housing finance institutions in the affected States.

Conference of State Labour Ministers

*310. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Conference of State Labour Ministers and the National Commission on Rural Labour was held at New Delhi recently; if so, what were the main subjects discussed and the decisions arrived at;